VOL. XV. - N° 1. January 1934.

League of Red Cross Societies

MONTHLY BULLETIN

Headquarters :
2, Av. Velasquez, Paris 8e

Telegraphic Address :
Licross 37-Paris

The League of Red Cross Societies is an international organization grouping together, for their peace-time activities, the National Societies, of the following countries : ALBANIA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, CANADA, CHILI, CHINA, COLOMBIA COSTA RICA, CUBA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, DANZIG, DENMARK, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, EGYPT, ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREAT BRITAIN, GREECE, GUATEMALA, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, ITALY, JAPAN, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBURG, MEXICO, NETHERLANDS, NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, PANAMA, PARAGUAY, PERSIA, PERU, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROUMANIA, SALVADOR, SIAM, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TURKEY, UNITED STATES, URUGUAY, VENEZUELA, YUGOSLAVIA.

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(bordeaux)

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DRAFT AGENDA OF THE TOK

The Red Cross in 1933

THE year which has just ended has been a remarkable one for the Red Cross. It will be memorable not so much because it has been marked by epoch-making events, as because of the fact that the continuance of the world economic crisis has meant increasing distress and increasing responsibilities for the Red Cross, and because this challenge has been successfully met. The increased responsibilities which have fallen upon national Societies have been carried. The resources necessary to enable them to play their part in the relief of distress have been found. The crisis has not dried up the fountain of charity.

The conclusion may, therefore, reasonably be drawn that the importance of the service given to the community by the Red Cross has been fully grasped by the public. If Red Cross Societies were, in the general structure of modern societies, institutions of merely secondary importance, it is obvious that individuals, finding themselves forced by the economic crisis to reduce their expenditures, would have regarded their Red Cross subscriptions as among the first items which could be cut down. It is clear that this has not happened on any extensive scale. On the contrary, Red Cross membership has been maintained without any appreciable falling off in almost all countries, and in some—Canada is an outstanding example—the public support given to the Red Cross during 1933 has been stronger than in previous years.

Fifteen years ago, when the idea of a continuous peacetime programme of health and welfare work for the Red Cross was launched, there was a good deal of scepticism in many quarters; the critics of the new departure argued that Red Cross organization was really adapted only to deal with the kind of emergency which is created by war. Ten years later, when the peacetime activities of Red Cross Societies were already in full swing, and when their utility could no longer be contested, there were still doubters. It was still possible in 1929 to suggest that the peacetime work of the Red Cross was a luxury—a by-product of prosperity—valuable no doubt, but not a vital contribution to the communities it served.

The part which the Red Cross has played in 1933, as a factor in the relief of distress and as an element of stability in a world disastrously near to chaos, must have set all these doubts at rest. The support which has continued to be given to the Red Cross during a period which has seen many philanthropic movements paralyzed for lack of resources, and many socially valuable institutions obliged to revise their programmes or to diminish their activities, proves conclusively that the Red Cross programme corresponds to real needs and that the Red Cross ideal represents something fundamental. Every phase of the peacetime activity of the Red Cross has justified itself.

It is true, of course, that the type of emergency for which the Red Cross was originally organized is the emergency of war. It is now manifest, however, that Red Cross Societies can make a contribution of the utmost importance in an emergency widely different in kind from that occasioned by war—the emergency arising out of chronic and widespread unemployment. The contribution which the Red Cross in different countries has made in this respect was the subject of an article in the December number of the League Bulletin, but it may not be superfluous to recall here that the American Red Cross alone, through its extensive unemployment relief operations, employing something like a million volunteers, provided clothing last year to nearly five-and-a-half million families, and bread or flour to 5,800,000. And while this enormous operation was in progress it was not allowed to interfere with the Society's capacity for dealing with emergencies on a smaller scale. The number of local relief operations undertaken by the American Red Cross in the course of the year, in order to assist sufferers from natural disasters in different parts of the United States, amounted to 117.

Happily, the number of major disasters recorded throughout the world during 1933 was rather below the average. On two occasions only was it necessary for the international Red Cross bodies to report to neighbouring groups of national Societies that one of their number found itself faced with an emergency the extent of which called for foreign assistance. In the case of the Tampico hurricane, generous help was quickly forthcoming from other Red Cross Societies in America, and the relief operations undertaken by the Chinese Red Cross, following the disastrous flooding of the Yellow River, were helped by a contribution from Japan and a grant from the American Red Cross.

Disaster situations elsewhere in the world were in all cases dealt with nationally, the part played by the Red Cross varying according to loca lconditions. Red Cross Societies everywhere are showing increasing realization of the importance of effective preparedness for disaster work. The principles which, with this purpose in view, have been followed for some years past by the Japanese Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross, and other Societies which have constant occasion to deal with disaster situations, have now been recognized as being universally applicable. It is significant that a pamphlet issued last summer by the League Secretariat, in which these principles are set forth and their application is illustrated, has received almost world-wide publicity. This means that the need for a local plan of disaster preparedness

in each community is today better realized that it has ever been before—and of course national planning for this purpose is the obvious corollary to local community planning.

In the international field, a spectacular advance in this respect was made last July, when the International Relief Union was formally constituted, its Executive Committee set up, and the organization of its Permanent and Central Service agreed upon. As readers of the Bulletin are aware, the responsibility for the functioning of the Permanent and Central Service of the Union has been undertaken jointly by the International Red Cross Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies. Here, again, is evidence of the importance of the position which the Red Cross has made for itself in the field of disaster relief.

In the course of the year 1933 public attention was focussed in many countries on a problem which as a cause of death, suffering, and disability, seems to be growing more serious every year: the problem of road accidents. The press has been emphasizing the fact that, in countries where the volume of motor traffic is great, casualties from this cause have reached a yearly figure comparable to those suffered by a belligerent army in the field; and it may be that public opinion has now been definitely aroused to the need of drastic action in order to reduce the toll taken by road accidents. In the meantime, Red Cross Societies in increasing numbers have taken the only action possible to deal with the situation, by setting up first aid posts along main highways for the purpose of providing immediate assistance to accident victims. The lead in this respect, which has been widely followed, was given by the Red Cross Societies of some of the Western European countries, in co-operation with Automobile Clubs and touring organizations. The development of this activity internationally has heen largely facilitated by the work of the Standing International Commission, under the chairmanship of Dr. Béhague, on which the touring organizations and the Red Cross are both represented, and which has made an important contribution by assembling information and formulating proposals for the standardization of first aid posts. In the spring of 1933 the representatives of a number of Red Cross Societies availed themselves of facilities arranged by the League Secretariat to enable them to see at first hand the work done in this connexion in Northern France, Belgium and Holland.

The continuing development of aviation is bringing more and more to the fore the possibilities of air ambulance services as a factor calculated to facilitate the transport of urgent cases to hospital and the organization of emergency relief work. The study of this question is continuing. The Secretariat of the League is following it closely in collaboration with national Red Cross Societies, aeroplane constructors, commercial air-lines, and aviation groups and societies. It was now been recognized that it is not economically practical for Red Cross Societies to acquire aeroplanes of their own for this purpose, and that air-ambulance services can only become a practical proposition if Red Cross bodies can arrange to have aeroplanes placed at their disposal for ambulance purposes when required, without having to make themselves responsible for their purchase and upkeep.

It would not have been surprising to find that, during a difficult year, the health activities undertaken by Red Cross Societies in more prosperous times had been curtailed or partially abandoned. But this is far from being the case. Last year's records show few if any instances of hospital services, clinics, or health centres, suppressed for reasons of economy by Red Cross Societies, or even of reduction in the scope of their activities. On the contrary, it seems to have been clearly realized, in the early days of the crisis, that economic and social distress would mean increased needs to be met by the health services of Red Cross Societies, and to meet these needs arrangements were made where possible to increase the facilities available. During the past year new Red Cross hospitals were opened at Cordova in Spain, at Rezekne in Latvia, and at Klaipeda in Lithuania. The foundation stones of new Red Cross hospitals were laid at Kyoto in Japan and at San Domingo; new children's clinics were inaugurated at Kolberg and Liegen in Germany, a sanatorium at Mardor and a preventorium at Vauvert in France, dispensaries at Alicante and Granada in Spain, a new tuberculosis ward at Plovdiv in Bulgaria. The Siamese Red Cross founded its 5th and the Latvian Red Cross its 50th health centre, and the Finnish Red Cross its 7th cottage-hospital. Blood transfusion services were organized by Red Cross Societies (following the example of Great Britain) in the Netherlands, Norway and Spain. A Hospital Library Service similar to that which has existed for some time under the auspices of the British Red Cross was started by the Red Cross in Italy. And all these are only examples.

One aspect of the health problem which has for some years been regarded with special interest by the Red Cross in countries which have a large peasant population, is the matter of rural hygiene. This question was brought to the fore two or three years ago by a European Rural Hygiene Conference convoked under the auspices of the League of Nations, at which the view was expressed that particularly valuable services might be rendered in this field by Red Cross Societies. The Technical Counsellor of the League was accordingly entrusted with the study of this subject and a number of national Societies have evinced their active interest. More than a dozen have nominated experts to co-operate in Dr. Sand's investigation, and from countries as far separated as Austria and Columbia very definite progress has been reported in Red Cross rural hygiene activities.

The importance of the contribution which Red Cross Societies have made to the cause of nursing since the war was well demonstrated by the important part played by Red Cross nurses in the International Nursing Congress held in Paris and Brussels last

July. Among the noteworthy fresh undertakings in the nursing field during last year may be mentioned the establishment of rest-homes for nurses by the Italian and Norwegian Red Cross Societies, and the institution, by the Japanese Red Cross, of a public health nursing service.

During the past few months the attention of those who are especially interested in the nursing phase of international Red Cross work has been largely focussed upon the future of the International Courses in London which have been conducted, since 1920, under the auspices of the League. The plans for the constitution of a Florence Nightingale International Foundation, in which the International Council of Nurses and the League will play a major part, are going steadily forward, and there is every reason to hope that the Foundation will be brought into existence in the course of the year 1934. In the meantime, the responsibility of the League for the London courses has been terminated as from July 1933, and the courses for the year 1933-1934 have been inaugurated under the auspices of a Provisional Committee for which the League of Red Cross Societies has agreed to act, for the present, as trustee.

The Junior Red Cross during 1933, as in previous years, has gone forward steadily. A French proverb says that happy countries have no history: "Les pays heureux n'ont pas d'histoire". The same is true of happy families, and the Junior Red Cross is a very happy family indeed, and a growing family. At this year's conference in Tokyo some of the more important of the problems of Junior Red Cross organization and activity will occupy a prominent place on the agenda, and as a preliminary to that discussion, an informal meeting of Junior Red Cross leaders from a number of countries was held at the headquarters of the League in Paris last June. The Junior Red Cross has established itself in a singularly strong position as a means for inducing children to adopt and practise good health habits,—as an auxiliary educational method of proved value—and as a means toward better international understanding. From all these points of view the movement receives every year more and more enthusiastic approval in educational circles. There is every reason to hope that the special commission which is to consider Junior Red Cross questions at the Tokyo Conference will be attended by a number of prominent educationalists, and will be able to formulate conclusions of real value to the progress of the movement.

Since the discussions of the XVth International Red Cross Conference will cover all the outstanding problems which confront the Red Cross internationally, the agenda prepared for the Fourteenth meeting of the Board of Governors of the League, which will meet at the same time, have been almost entirely confined to questions of internal interest to the League. Special attention will be given to the possibilities of more effective co-operation of the League Secretariat with the Red Cross Societies of the Far East, especially as no Oriental Red Cross Conference has been held since 1926, and since it will probably not be practicable to arrange another such conference for three or four years to come. A report on the development of Red Cross organization and activity in Oriental countries has been prepared by Mr. de Gielgud, Under-Secretary General, on the basis of his studies in the winter of 1932-1933, and this report will come before the Board of Governors at its meeting in Tokyo.

One of the most important questions which will be considered by the International Conference in October is that of the extension of the Red Cross movement throughout the world. During 1933 conspicuous progress has been made in this respect. Red Cross branches have been founded in a number of British Colonies where Red Cross activity had lapsed since 1918 or had never been attempted. New Red Cross Societies, which only await the completion of certain formalities to obtain international recognition, have come into existence in Iraq and in the three Central American States—Haiti, Honduras and Nicaragua—into which the Red Cross movement had not previously penetrated. It is to be hoped that the holding of the XVth International Red Cross Conference in an Oriental country will lead to the revival of the project mooted some years ago for the constitution of a Red Crescent Society in Afghanistan. Much still remains to be done in Africa. An admirable lead has been given by the South African Red Cross at one end of the continent and by the Egyptian Red Crescent at the other; great activity is being shown by the colonial branches of the French Red Cross in Madagascar, of the Belgian Red Cross in the Congo, and of the British Red Cross in East Africa, Rhodesia, Swaziland and the Gold Coast; but the Red Cross movement has not yet established itself in Abyssinia or in Liberia, and vast stretches of colonial territory in other parts of the continent are still untouched by the movement.

Latin America during the past year has been perhaps as seriously affected as any part of the world by the economic crisis, and some of the Latin American States have also had to contend with grave difficulties of a political character. This has not prevented—in some cases it has even perhaps stimulated—a recrudescence of Red Cross activity in this part of the world. The Red Cross Societies of Bolivia and Paraguay have been called upon to undertake the responsibilities which fall upon national Societies in time of war, and have responded to the call with remarkable effectiveness. The Peruvian Red Cross has been re-organized and has embarked upon a vigorous programme of activity. The Brazilian Red Cross is completing a re-organization of a similar kind, and in Chili, where Red Cross peacetime activity has been very widely developed during the past few years, further progress was recorded during 1933. When the Third Pan-American Red Cross Conference meets, the reports of the participating Societies will undoubtedly show a definite advance since the Washington Conference of 1926. Plans for that conference continued to go forward during the past year, and it is definitely planned to hold it in the course of the year 1935.

The tendency to re-organize, in the light of changed

conditions, which has already been noted in some of the South American countries, has also shown itself in Europe. The Danish, German and Yugoslav Red Cross Societies have revised their statutes, and both in Yugoslavia and in Czechoslovakia the laws governing the organization and activities of the Red Cross were substantially amended last year. At the other end of the world, in New Zealand, the Red Cross Society, which obtained recognition from the International Committee not very long ago, has embarked upon a vigorous campaign of propaganda, and is preparing for the first time to organize peace-time activity on a nation-wide scale.

During the years which immediately followed the termination of the war, international co-operation was the watch-word in almost every field of human activity. In many fields, while such co-operation continues to be regarded as an ideal, the present tendency seems to be in the direction of feeling that its realization can lie only in the far-distant future. It is peculiarly satisfactory in these circumstances to note that, in the Red Cross field, international co-operation is growing stronger, more vigorous, and more practical every year. The League Secretariat, although it has been necessary for reasons of economy to reduce its personnel to the minimum compatible with efficiency and to eliminate its non-essential activities, has found itself, during the past year, more and more frequently called upon by the national Societies to place its stock of information at their disposal, to maintain its contacts with them; and to provide them with suggestions and examples from other countries. The Secretary General completed his personal contacts with the national Societies in Europe by visiting Vienna, Budapest, Madrid and Luxemburg. Study visitors came to League headquarters during the year from most of the European countries and from Societies so remote as India and Brazil, New Zealand and the United States. The circulation of the League's publications has increased, and the use made by national Societies of the material for publication supplied by League headquarters is steadily growing.

What is perhaps most significant in all this is the fact that the international aspect of the Red Cross movement is being every year more and more widely recognized as a definite asset to the national Societies in securing and maintaining public support. It remains true, as a Japanese spokesman said at the Tokyo Conference in 1926, that the best Red Cross propaganda consists in concrete Red Cross activity, the value of which the public can see for itself. But men and women and children, all over the world, are showing themselves increasingly appreciative of the fact that their membership in their national Red Cross Societies makes them members not only of a national organization of proved national value, but also of an international fellowship standing not only for the ideal, but also for the practice, of useful and effective international co-operation. To achieve this has been from the beginning one of the essential objectives of the League. To carry it on under the difficult circumstances of today is the League's justification. To make it a permanent factor in the world is our chief aspiration and the basis of our future work.

Ernest J. Swift

Why the Red Cross Merits Public Support.

The need for supporting the Red Cross through increased membership because of the important part which the organization plays in sustaining the morale of millions of citizens was emphasized, during the recent American Red Cross Roll Call, by the former chairman of the Emergency Unemployment Relief Committee of New York City, in a statement from which the following are extracts:

Morale is an all important factor in the United States in these trying times. The Red Cross and its emblem play a big part in sustaining morale—almost as big a part as in time of war. Into more than six million homes of the jobless and the disaster stricken, the Red Cross has carried practical help and rehabilitation. These families have known for the past eighteen months that the Red Cross stood ready to help them fight their battle against need.

I think that money given to the Red Cross certainly goes as far if not farther perhaps than through any other channel. A membership in the Red Cross has always paid dividends far out of proportion to the money involved.

Florence Nightingale Foundation.

The League Secretariat has been informed that the Central Committee of the South African Red Cross Society has approved the principle of a Florence Nightingale International Foundation and has constituted a Joint Committee with the South African Trained Nurses' Association.

This committee, although of recent formation, has got to work very rapidly and is already able to announce that, through the generosity of a private citizen, a scholarship for the London Courses has been offered for the session 1934-35 to the Durban Branch of the South African Trained Nurses' Association.

National Committees have already been formed in Belgium, France, Great Britain, Holland, Latvia, Canada and the United States.

Delegations to Tokio.

National Red Cross Societies which are wondering how to reconcile the need for economy with their desire to be represented at the XVth International Red Cross Conference in Tokio next October will be interested to learn how the Swedish Red Cross proposes to solve this problem.

In the event of its being possible to find a delegate qualified to undertake the representation both of the Swedish Red Cross and the Swedish Govern-

ment at the Tokyo meeting, the Society has offered to assume half the responsibility for his travelling expenses.

It is hoped that other National Societies may find themselves able to make similar arrangements.

Shelter for Sick and Destitute Travellers.

The Polish Red Cross has established in the railway station at Stolpce, near the Russo-Polish frontier, a refuge for travellers arriving from abroad and unable to continue their journey because of ill-health or lack of funds. This is in addition to the Red Cross first-aid post organized at the same station some months ago.

Polish emigrants returning to their country are frequently obliged to wait at Stolpce for replies to letters sent to relatives. The Red Cross helps them to tide over this waiting period and often advances the railway fare to enable them to rejoin their homes.

The hospitality of the Red Cross shelter is also extended to foreign travellers while they are awaiting replies to messages which they have sent to their respective consulates in Poland.

This initiative may be considered as forming part of the activities on behalf of refugees and emigrants pursued for some years past by several of the national Red Cross Societies in accordance with the plan worked out by the League in collaboration with the International Labour Office, and in the spirit of the 4th resolution of the XIVth International Red Cross Conference.

Re-Appointment of Judge Payne.

On November 25th last, President Roosevelt re-appointed Judge John Barton Payne to the chairmanship of the American Red Cross for the term ending December 13th 1934. The President nominated, at the same time, the following members of the Central Committee in accordance with the stipulation in the Society's statutes to the effect that six of the eighteen members of the Central Committee shall be designated by the President of the U. S. A. : William Phillips, Under Secretary of State; Henry A. Morgenthau, Jr., Acting Secretary of the Treasury; Major-General Robert U. Patterson, Surgeon General of the U. S. Army; Rear-Admiral P. S. Rossiter, Surgeon General of the U. S. Navy, and James Crawford Biggs, Solicitor General.

Judge Payne has now entered upon his thirteenth year as Chairman of the American Red Cross, having been appointed by President Harding in October 1921 and successively maintained in that office by Presidents Coolidge, Hoover and Roosevelt. Under his direction, Red Cross operations aggregating upwards of $ 184.000,000 in cash expenditures have been carried on during these twelve eventful years.

More than eleven years have passed since Judge Payne's election as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies.

Training of Staff for Air Ambulances.

The Association des Dames Françaises (French Red Cross) has just succeeded in organizing post-graduate courses for its nurses in the technique of transporting sick and wounded by air ambulance.

Courses in First Aid are also being arranged for the benefit of aviators desiring to become pilots of air ambulances.

An inaugural session was held at the headquarters of the A. D. F. on December 16th 1933, under the chairmanship of the Comtesse de Galard, president of the Association. Among the distinguished guests present were the Marquise de Noailles, to whose initiative the courses are due, and M. Robert Charlet, Secretary-General of the Standing Committee of the International Air Ambulance Congresses.

This is the first instance on record of a National Society organizing regular courses of training for the staffs of air ambulances, open to pilots and nurses alike.

The important of such training was stressed at the unofficial meeting on Air Ambulance Services held at the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies on April 4th, 1933.

Resignation of German Red Cross President.

Herr Joachim von Winterfeldt-Menkin, who has presided over the destinies of the German Red Cross for fourteen-and-a-half years past, has now handed over his functions to H. R. H. the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. His resignation did not come altogether as a surprise to his colleagues at the Red Cross, for he had frequently voiced the desire to relinquish the heavy burden of his responsibilities in favour of a younger man. Before doing so, however, he waited to see the new constitution of the German Red Cross established on a firm and lasting basis.

In a personal letter, Marshal von Hindenburg—who is the Patron of the German Red Cross—thanked Herr von Winterfeldt for his eminent services to the Red Cross movement, and nominated him Honorary President of the Society.

Herr von Winterfeldt's association with the Red Cross began in 1902, when he was elected chairman of a small local committee originally founded by his father. From 1904 to 1912, he was Vice-Chairman of the provincial committee of Brandenburg. In 1919, he became President of the Central Committee of the German Red Cross, of which he had been a member since 1916. His appointment to the leadership of the Society coincided with one of the most difficult periods in its history. After the liquidation of the war and post-war activities, he concentrated the whole attention of the Society on the organization of a peace-time programme. The German Red Cross joined the League of Red Cross Societies in 1922.

The last act in Herr von Winterfeldt's career as President of the German Red Cross was the drafting of new statutes defining the position of the Society in the administrative scheme of the new Reich.

AUSTRALIA

Blood Transfusion The increasing use made of the Blood Transfusion Service of the Australian Red Cross is evidenced by the fact that the average number of calls for donors now exceeds 18 per month. Every public hospital in Melbourne is now benefiting by the Service. Since its inauguration three years ago, 377 transfusions have been carried out with the aid of Red Cross donors.

AUSTRIA

Rural Hygiene In Austria, health propaganda in the villages is undertaken by an organization known as the Austrian Society for Public Health, founded a few years ago, on the board of which the Austrian Red Cross has a representative. The Red Cross seconds the activities of this body by combating tuberculosis in rural areas, and by organizing life-saving and first-aid services.

BELGIUM

Aid to Foreigners The Belgian Red Cross has recently undertaken the creation of a special service for rendering assistance to aliens (refugees, exiles, deportees, etc...)

COSTA RICA

Help for the Blind The Costa-Rican Red Cross has now organized a school for the blind, the direction of which has been entrusted to Seûor Francisco de la Paz. The Braille method has been adopted for a teaching syllabus which is designed to enable the blind to become useful members of the community.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Floods in Ruthenia In the night of July 8th to 9th last, the inhabitants of Vylock, a village in Sub-Carpathian Russia, were roused from their beds by a flood resulting from the overflow of the Tisa River. Some 1,500 persons suddenly found themselves homeless, and 270 habitations were swept away by the waters.

The Sub-Carpathian division of the Czechoslovak Red Cross promptly despatched a motor-ambulance and food supplies to the scene of the catastrophe, and took charge of the relief operations. Two hundred persons were conveyed by special train to the nearest town, Bergovo, while the sick and injured were rushed by ambulance to hospital. The local Red Cross also contributed a sum of 5,000 Czech crowns, 50 beds, medical supplies and garments, and organized collections of money and clothing on behalf of the flood victims. In all, 186,977 Czech crowns were collected, in addition to large quantities of grain, flour, garments, linen, etc.

DENMARK

Attracting New Members With a view to attracting a larger membership, the Danish Red Cross has devised a number of means to draw the attention of the public to the usefulness of the Society and the immediate advantages of being a Red Cross member.

One of the most successful of these methods is the issuance of a membership card in the form of a small notebook containing useful information and advice. The contents deal with a different subject each year. This year, for exemple, the theme was emergency aid in case of accident; next year, a list of health rules will be given. The card also entitles the holder to make free use of the "night medical post" organized by Danish doctors.

It has been found that this system greatly facilitates the enrolment of new members, and the example of the Danish Red Cross might profitably be followed by other national Societies.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

A New Hospital On October 1st, 1933, the Dominican Red Cross inaugurated the new headquarters building which it has had erected at Santo Domingo. This edifice houses the Red Cross secretariat, a first-aid post and a hospital. General Trujillo Molina, the President of the Republic and honorary chairman of the Red Cross Society, personally donated 1,000 Pesos towards the costs of construction.

The ground floor is composed of the first-aid post, two hospital wards of ten beds each, an operating theatre, a sterilizing room, a pharmacy, and the domestic offices (kitchens, laundry, etc). The Red Cross Secretariat, a reception room and a store depôt occupy the first floor.

FRENCH COLONIES

French West Africa The A. D. F. (French Red Cross) committee at Dakar recently organized a "Negro Baby Show", which met with conspicuous success. Prizes to a total value of 8,000 francs were offered for the finest babies. The jury made a tour of seven native villages, representing an aggregate infant population of 12,000, and examined 738 candidates.

It has been found that these competitions arouse a spirit of healthy rivalry among the native mothers, and that each baby show is followed by increased attendances at the Red Cross infant welfare clinics.

Syria Mlle Ducreux, A. D. F. delegate at Damascus, has been entrusted with the task of reorganizing the School for Moslem Nurse-Midwives at the Medical Faculty of the Syrian University.

Prior to undertaking this mission, Mlle Ducreux founded in Damascus a Franco-Syrian Committee of the French Red Cross (A. D. F.) as a branch of the Central Committee in Paris. The aim of this committee is to spread health propaganda through appropriate teaching, and to set up a system of social welfare for the benefit of destitute Syrians.

Courses have been organized for the training of "Red Cross aids" and will be followed by an examination entitling successful candidates to a diploma. A tuberculosis clinic has been established under the patronage of the Syrian University.

GREECE

Relief Organization The relief activities of the Greek Red Cross (which, by reason of the frequent disasters in Greece, are many and varied) are directed by a special committee composed of members of the Society's governing body and of particularly qualified persons chosen from outside the Red Cross.

The equipment for disaster relief consists of three field hospitals of 25 beds each provided with sufficient surplus material to enable the accommodation to be doubled if need be, six mobile dispensaries, and three observation posts for the sick. All this equipment is kept packed up in the central depôt in Athens ready for dispatch to any point of the territory within an outside limit of two hours.

Two printed brochures accompany the material, one in the form of an inventory, the other describing the responsibilities of those taking part in the relief operations.

A number of young doctors have been induced to enrol as Red Cross volunteer for service in the event of public disaster, and a list of their names and addresses is kept at headquarters together with mobilization slips made out ready for instant dispatch to each of them. For its needs in nursing personnel, the Society has only to address itself to the head of the Red Cross nursing division, who immediately places the required number of trained nurse volunteers at its disposal.

Since 1931, the Red Cross relief committee has been training a reserve force of volunteer stretcher-bearers. The course of instruction comprises three months of theory followed by two months of practice in a hospital, culminating in an examination and a diploma. In order that the training given volunteers may remain fresh in their minds, they are occasionally called upon to lend their assistance in one of the Red Cross first-aid posts.

The relief committee is also responsible for the organization of first-aid posts in towns and on highways.

Home for Children With the help of the Ministry of Public Instruction, the Greek Junior Red Cross has established a Children's Home at Parga, with a school canteen attached. The first occupants of the Home are 26 vagrant children rescued by the Red Cross. After being bathed, clothed and shod they settled down in the Home and have now formed a Junior group of their own.

The idea of the school canteen is to enable the inmates of the Home to come into contact with other Juniors and thus to accustom the latter to take an interest in philanthropic organizations. It is hoped also, through them, to reach their parents and other inhabitants of the town, and to enlist their support for the institution.

The Junior Relief Fund has presented the Home with a school pharmacy, books and magazines, and a generous supply of toothbrushes, toothpaste, garments, crockery, etc.

ICELAND

Change of President At its meeting on October 24th last, the Central Committee of the Icelandic Red Cross Society elected Dr. G. Claessens as its president in succession to Dr. B. Olafsson, who has resigned.

INDIA

Poster Competition Red Cross Weeks will be held throughout India early in 1934. The actual date is to be left to the discretion of each individual branch, but March 20th is suggested as the most appropriate, since it is the anniversary of the foundation of the Indian Red Cross Society. It is proposed to devote the proceeds of the Week to anti-tuberculosis work, and suitable propaganda material is accordingly being prepared by the King George Thanksgiving (Anti-Tuberculosis) Fund, administered by the Indian Red Cross. A new pamphlet is being prepared at headquarters entitled "How to organize a Red Cross campaign for membership and funds", which will subsequently be distributed to all the branches.

A prize of 150 Rupees is being offered for the most suitable poster for Red Cross Week. The poster may be of a general character or may deal specially with the prevention of tuberculosis, but in either case the Red Cross emblem and the words "Red Cross Week" must appear on it.

Summer School A Summer School for Red Cross workers was held in Simla from September 21st to 23rd, 1933. This has now become an annual event and is greatly appreciated by those taking part as well as by the Red Cross branches.

SALVADOR

Junior Red Cross Poster Contest

Junior Red Cross members belonging to the "Cisneros" school in San Salvador held an extremely successful poster contest in July last. Three prizes only had been contemplated but in view of the high character of the designs submitted additional prizes were given.

The Central Committee of the Salvador Red Cross, on the motion of President J. Max Olano, voted a grant of 25 colones for drawing material for the prize-winning children.

SPANISH MOROCCO

A Model Hospital

Some years ago, during the Moroccan campaign, the Spanish Red Cross established a hospital and dispensary at Larache for the treatment of wounded soldiers. Now that peace has been restored, the establishment has been transformed into a hospital and health centre for civilians, and equipped with every modern device for the prevention and cure of disease. Several extensions have been made, including an electro-therapic service (presented by the Central Committee of the Spanish Red Cross), a crêche, a maternity ward, a milk distribution centre and a school for the training of Red Cross nurses and nurses' aids. The Red Cross committee at Larache is now planning to establish an analytical laboratory to serve the three towns of Larache, Arcila and Alcazar.

SWEDEN

Seamen's Welfare

For some years past, the Swedish Red Cross has been maintaining eleven enquiry offices for seafarers in different Swedish ports. During the last twelve months, 1,100 sailors have visited these offices and 19,000 letters have been re-forwarded. Increasing application is being made to them for medical assistance.

These enquiry offices form part of a vast international scheme for the health and welfare of merchant seamen, on the details of which the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies has done much work in accordance with the instructions of its Board of Governors. The initiative of the scheme was due to the Norwegian Red Cross.

TURKEY

A Decade of Effort

To commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Turkish Republic, the Turkish Red Crescent has published a review of its activities during the last ten years.

After adapting its constitution to the new circumstances created by the Turkish Revolution, the Red Crescent assumed, in collaboration with the Government, the task of transporting and providing for the 360,236 Turkish refugees repatriated from Greece following the signature of the Lausanne Treaty.

In the course of the past decade, the Red Crescent has expended upwards of three and a half million Turkish pounds on social welfare and relief activities.

During the same period, it has provided new headquarters for itself at Ankara, opened a school of nursing at Constantinople and re-organized its supply depôts. It has brought about immense improvements in the exploitation of the Kara-Hissar mineral springs, conceded to it by the State, and has laid out a public park at Ankara, equipped with playgrounds. The Society now has 781 local committees.

UNITED STATES

First Results of Roll Call

Although full results of the last American Red Cross Roll Call are not yet to hand, indications are not lacking that the public in the U. S. A. and American possessions have realized the necessity of lending the Red Cross their whole-hearted support at this critical period, and have rallied to the movement in greater numbers than at any period during the past five years.

Unexpectedly large increases in membership are reported from many quarters and most of the Chapters have fully attained their "quota", or even exceeded it. One county chapter in Connecticut has increased its membership by 126 per cent, and enrolled 4,014 members in place of the 3,000 anticipated.

Another, in New York State, reports an enrolment of upwards of 20,000 as against 6,800 last year. A Chapter in Ohio has nearly doubled last year's figure of 13,000. By November 20th—eleven days before the close of the Roll Call—sixteen other Chapters had overshot the goals assigned to them.

In Hawaii, a territory with 300,000 inhabitants, an increase of 400 per cent is recorded, in spite of widespread unemployment. Whereas only 963 were enrolled in the Red Cross in 1931, there are now 5,050 members. Nothing could more aptly illustrate the universal appeal of the Red Cross, for the population of the island is composed of a multitude of different racial elements: Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Portuguese and Caucasian, in addition to the native Hawaiian.

Canteen for Fire-Fighters

When persistent forest fires, covering some 6,000 acres, broke out in New York State last October, the fire fighters were compelled to work in shifts night and day. The problem of feeding the men became acute, so the local Red Cross chapter was called upon to establish a canteen. Three hours after the request had been made, the canteen was in active operation and a first-aid detachment was on the spot to help men who might be injured. The service functioned continuously for three days and nights. Some idea of the magnitude of the operation may be gathered from the fact that three hundred men were engaged in fighting the flames.

First Aid on Playgrounds

In view of the large number of minor casualties occurring every summer in the play-grounds at Dallas (Texas), the Park Board has ruled that playground supervisors shall pass the Red Cross first-aid and life-saving tests before their applications for appointments can be considered. Classes are being conducted by the local Red Cross chapter to enable applicants to fulfil this stipulation.

One of the largest hotels in the Southwest of the United States recently had groups of its employees take the Red Cross course in first aid. Day and night shifts, from the kitchen to the management, successfully passed the tests, and the hostelry can now boast that almost every member of its staff is capable of properly administering first-aid treatment.

Ingenuity in Well-doing

For the Junior, the word "Service" conjures up a host of interesting possibilities. The versatility of the American Juniors in devising ways of helping others is almost legendary. A recent number of the "Junior Red Cross News" teems with examples of the inventive spirit of the youth of America.

A teacher in Buffalo writes:

"We have a small box with a Red Cross on it that has been our sacrifice box. I have only twenty-four pupils, and have been surprised at the amount of money that has been put in the box. They all agreed not just to ask their parents for money but really to give up something that they wanted... We had a programme on Other Countries and did some folk dances, showed dolls dressed like children in other lands, played games of different nations and told how others could join the Red Cross."

Some Californian Juniors, desirous of communicating their enthusiasm for the Red Cross to others, offered to pay half the enrolment fee for all the rural schools in the district. Another group in California raised $48 through amateur theatricals and used part of the money to provide needy families with sugar for their preserving.

Juniors at a school in Tennessee collect magazines for distribution among families who enjoy reading but cannot afford to buy books. A school in Vermont earned its enrolment in the Junior Red Cross by making and selling fudge.

Of all the examples quoted in this particular number of the Junior Red Cross News, however, the palm must be awarded to the Juniors of Passaic, New Jersey, who last year spent $1,073 on such projects as: clinic and massage treatment for crippled children; material for 1,011 articles of clothing made up by the Juniors; fruits and vegetables canned for a day nursery and orphan asylum; milk, eggs and clothing for five destitute families; endowment of a bed in the local Orthopædic Hospital; operations, X-Rays and other treatment for needy schoolmates.

URUGUAY

Weekly Broadcasts

The Uruguayan Red Cross has notified the League Secretariat that it has been successful in negotiating an agreement for one year with the official broadcasting agency in Montevideo entitling the Society to broadcast weekly talks on its activities.

The series was inaugurated by the Secretary-General of the Red Cross, and he will be followed at the microphone by eminent physicians and qualified members of the Society. Most of the subjects for the talks will be taken from the popular articles distributed each month to the national Red Cross Societies by the League Secretariat.

YUGOSLAVIA

Armistice Day Message

On November 11th, 1933, the fifteenth anniversary of Armistice Day, the Yugoslav Juniors broadcast the following message to the children of the world:

"Fifteen years ago today, one of the most destructive wars in history came to an end after ravaging Europe for four long years. That was a day of wild rejoicing throughout the world.

Let us today recall the suffering and sacrifices of those who took part in the war. Let us ponder upon the burnt villages, the ruined towns, the sickness, disablement and distress caused by the war.

Remembering all these, we—members of the Yugoslav Red Cross—appeal to the children of all nations to unite their efforts, aspirations and thoughts towards the realization of one great object: the maintenance of world peace.

We must all strive to cultivate a spirit of mutual helpfulness and understanding, out of which will eventually spring that new feeling of solidarity and confidence among nations which will lead the world to an era of peace, prosperity and happiness."

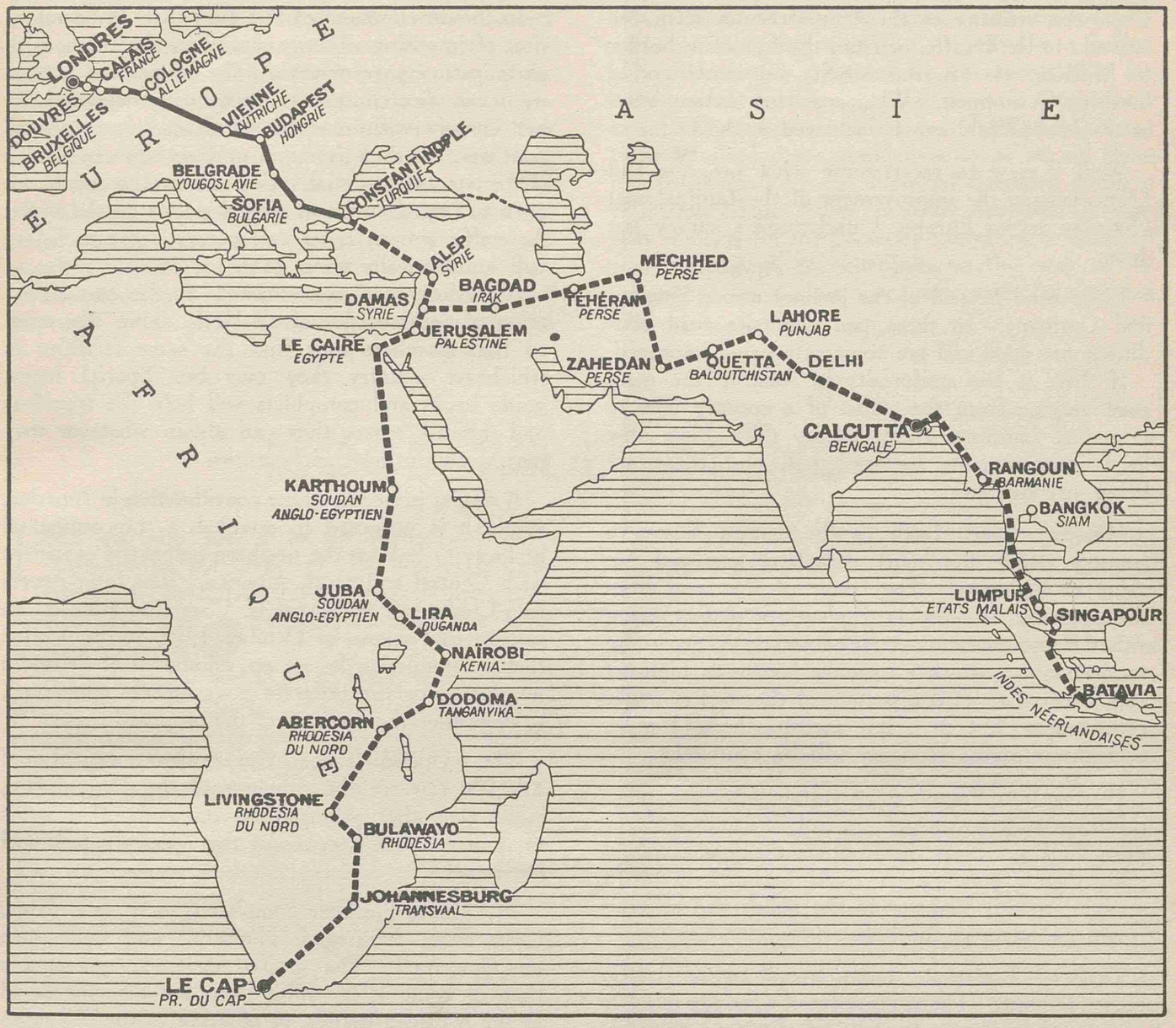
Health Exhibition

From August 19th to September 24th last, the Central Health Institute in Beograd held its first health exhibition, in collaboration with the Yugoslav Red Cross and other voluntary organizations engaged in health work. The object of the exhibition was purely educational, and it was divided into the following categories : general health instruction; health of the mother and child; tuberculosis; venereal diseases; contagious diseases; malaria; sanitation; town planning; nutrition; the health of the worker; individual and racial hygiene; physical culture; the incidence of disease.

Special reductions in railway tariffs enabled visitors from all parts of the country to benefit by the teaching of the exhibition, the attendance at which exceeded even the most optimistic hopes of the organizers.

TRANSCONTINENTAL HIGHWAYS

By F. BRADLEY



DISTANCES FROM LONDON TO

	Miles	Kms.		Miles	Kms.		Miles	Kms.
Budapest	1,092	1,757	Cairo	3,585	5,770	Bagdad	3,570	5,745
Istanbul	1,937	3,117	Nairobi	6,905	11,111	Delhi	6,690	10,767
Damascus	3,037	4,887	Cape Town.....	10,811	17,398	Calcutta	7,618	12,260

THREE years ago, at the annual general meeting of the International Touristic Association, held at Istanbul, the Automobile Association of Great Britain proposed that there should be developed a great trunk road across Europe from London to the Bosphorous. It is doubtful if any of the motoring delegates at this international congress had come to the rallying point by road, for although most of them represented countries having highly developed road systems, there was no main road across the Continent of Europe offering sufficient safety and comfort to induce them to follow it in preference to other modes of locomotion.

The suggestion of the A. A. was heartily approved by the Association, it being recognized that a trunk road across the eight states would be of immense value in itself and that it would constitute the backbone of a hundred branch roads, each one of value in the material and moral uplifting of the people whose country they ran through.

This international highway across Europe, offers no technical difficulties. The Continental portion, starting at Calais, runs through Brussels, Aix-la-Chapelle, Cologne, Nuremberg, Regensburg, Passau, Linz, Vienna, Budapest, Novi-Sad, Belgrade, Nish, Sofia and Adrianople to Istanbul.

In fact this route is so near complete realization that it is possible to look ahead to the time when there will be great highways, not only from London to Istanbul, but also from Istanbul to Calcutta and to Capetown. If the distance across Europe is approximately 2,000 miles, it is 7,618 miles from

London to Calcutta and 10,811 miles from London to Cape Town. There is nothing visionary in such a scheme. Most of us can remember the days when the crossing of the United States from the Atlantic to the Pacific, or from the Canadian border to Mexico, was an impossibility in winter and a hardship in summer. What has been accomplished in the New World can be achieved in the Old.

With a view to ascertaining what progress had been made in the improvement of the International Highway across Europe, I undertook a survey last June.

Little need be said of the journey across Belgium and Germany. In these two countries road conditions are good and are constantly being improved.

If there is less uniformity in Austria—the main road varying from the status of a country lane to a perfect highway—there are no difficulties; only local improvements are required, and these are being attended to.

Hungary stands forth as the central European country which has most completely realized the value of highways. The whole of the road from the Austrian frontier to Budapest is perfect, being either bituminous or concrete construction, according to the most up-to-date formulæ known to highway engineers. Eastward a portion of the road is under construction, but in a few months the 244 miles of highway across Hungary will be completed.

Passing into Yugoslavia, conditions become more primitive and remain poor in Bulgaria and in European Turkey. Near the frontiers the road is rarely more than a grass-grown track, becoming a broad straight, muddy highway in the plains and offering rough macadam in the hills.

East of Budapest, international motor traffic ceased to exist. The appearance of a foreign number plate attracted no attention in France, Belgium, Germany, Austria and a part of Hungary, but further east cars are only used locally in and around the big towns and cities, and the arrival of a car with a "G. B." number plate was an event of no small importance. The fact that cars were used at all, under some of the conditions we witnessed, was a testimony to their utility, and it also effectively dispelled any notion that motoring was a pleasure!

But the authorities in Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Turkey are awakening to the advantages of good roads. There were signs of improvement, of new construction, and from conversations we had in Bulgaria and Sofia we learned that the spirit of indifference and mistrust against neighbours, which is one of the factors operating against highways, is being broken down. It is being learned that roads are a national asset.

In an interview which he accorded us immediately after our arrival, His Excellency Muhettin Bey, the Vali (or Governor) of Istanbul. assured us of the intention of the Turkish authorities to assist in the development of the International Highway. The considerable attention given by the newspapers of Istanbul to our expedition was an indication of the keen interest of the Turkish people.

In the development of this road there is no intention of imposing a heavy strain on the finances of participating governments. The immediate necessity is an amelioration of those sections which do not comply with modern standards. International road signs, or the erection of uniform signs in Roman characters are essential. Customs arrangements are open to improvement at several points on the route. As traffic grows, hotel and garage accommodation will automatically keep pace.

All efforts are concentrated on the standardization of commodities of all kinds along the road, so that travellers may find the same facilities in whichever country they may be. Special maps, guide books and pamphlets will help the travellers and indicate where they can obtain whatever they may need during their journey.

A similar project is under consideration in America, where it is proposed to establish a trancontinental highway to link up the northern half of the continent with Central and South America. The Inter-American Conference of Means of Communication, at its session in Panama in October 1929, recommended that a commission be set up, composed of delegates nominated by the different governments concerned, to determine the itinerary of the proposed route.

The United States Government contributed $ 50,000 towards the expenses of the Commission, while the other governments donated either sums of money or the services of the necessary technical personnel.

The survey has been completed, so far as Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala are concerned. The ground covered represents a total of some 1,500 miles from the Panama Canal to the Mexican border, in addition to the 200 miles explored in Salvador. The Commission is now drafting its official report.

First aid for travellers

It is also important to contribute to safety by a first aid organization along the road. The first-aid posts set up by the Red Cross in several countries would appear to provide the ideal solution of this problem.

There are already a certain number of these posts in Western Europe, fitted with the general equipment recommended by the Standing International Commission for First Aid on Highways, i. e. stretchers, a standardized first-aid chest, and a telephone for calling doctor and ambulance. The persons in charge of the posts have been specially trained by the Red Cross, and know exactly what steps to take in the event of an accident.

Each post is marked with the now-familiar sign described in the Convention for the unification of road signs: a dark-blue, rectangular shield bearing

in the centre a red cross or a red crescent on a white square background. The road maps indicate the position of first-aid posts by means of a special sign, while the guide books describe the manner in which the posts function and how they are equipped. Although of comparatively recent origin, the Red Cross posts have earned the gratitude and confidence of road-users in all the countries where they have thus far been established, for they are daily rendering disinterested service to victims of motoring mishaps. As it is common knowledge that their position coincides with dangerous spots where accidents are of frequent occurrence, the characteristic road sign has therefore come to be recognized not only as an indication of where help may be obtained if needed but also as a warning of possible danger.

Such standardized posts, set up at regular intervals along the transcontinental road, would undoubtedly contribute to safety and give the traveller a feeling of added security. Experience has shown that the most useful distance between posts is from three to six miles, which means that an aggregate of about three hundred posts would have to be set up along the trunk road by the National Societies of eight countries. This seems perfectly feasible. It now only remains for the Societies concerned to manifest their willingness to contribute in this way to the success of an undertaking with such far-reaching aims.

FLOOD RELIEF IN INDIA

INDIA last year had a record monsoon rainfall. Although in the long run this will benefit the country by producing better crops, the immediate results have been unprecedented floods in many parts of the country.

In the Cuttack and Puri Districts of Bihar and Orissa Province, floods following a hurricane in August caused a large amount of material damage, in addition to which nine persons were drowned and 171 cattle were either drowned or died of exposure. The worst effects were felt in areas which are regarded as practically immune from flood for 40 years. The information available gives a figure of about 7,000 houses entirely ruined, while about double that number suffered severe damage. The loss of crops is also considerable. In the neighbourhood of the breaches heavy deposits of sand have rendered the land unproductive for several years to come. The total area exposed to the flood may be put at about 2,000 square miles.

The floods were followed by an outbreak of cholera. This was promptly dealt with by medical relief officers, placed on special duty for the purpose. While the epidemic lasted, it caused about four times the normal mortality from that disease, claiming some nine hundred victims throughout the two districts.

The Government is taking steps to repair the breaches and a grant of Rs. 50,000 has been made for reconstruction work. In addition to Government grants, the Bihar and Orissa Famine Charitable Relief Fund has given Rs. 3,000, and the Bihar and Orissa Red Cross Branch Rs. 800, specially earmarked for anti-epidemic measures. Local subscriptions reached the sum of Rs. 14,000. The Government of Bihar and Orissa has approached the Indian People's Famine Trust for a grant of Rs. 40,000 to be given to the poorer classes for the reconstruction of their houses.

During September at Rohtak, in the Punjab, a huge volume of water suddenly poured through an undetected breach. Help was immediately summoned and dwellers near the breach were removed to safety in boats and on improvised rafts. The town was flooded, at several places to a depth of 12 feet. The Deputy Commissioner opened three relief posts and set up temporary dispensaries. Meantime the Punjab Red Cross Provincial Secretary was hastily summoned from Simla, where he was attending the Punjab Red Cross Summer School. He brought with him a cheque for Rs. 3,000 as the Punjab Red Cross contribution to the flood sufferers, and relief work was immediately undertaken. The Government also sanctioned a grant of Rs. 10,000. A local non-official relief committee was set up and it was decided to supply *sirkis*—mud huts quickly erected on wire frames—to shelter the homeless. This flood was remarkable for the prompt and efficient relief measures undertaken. The water in the city was drained out by four pumping engines, and grain was distributed free to the poor. The Red Cross also supplied some stretchers to the local hospital. It was reported that the " Disaster Relief Plan " drawn up recently by this Society was used as a basis for the relief work.

Simultaneously with the Rohtak flood, Delhi Province (which adjoins it) was seriously affected, and malaria became widely prevalent. The Deputy Commissioner having reported that there was urgent need of clothing in the affected villages, the Managing Body of the Indian Red Cross Society sent a gift of 500 grey flannel jackets. and a cheque for Rs. 1,000 for medical relief. In Delhi itself a municipal relief fund was opened, and supplemented by private donations. The Government contributed Rs. 2,000. Three relief camps have been established in Delhi for distressed villagers, whose houses and crops have been destroyed. Every effort was made to deal with the malaria outbreak. The Chief Medical Officer appointed additional assistants to tour the affected parts of the district to distribute quinine and give medical aid.

THE TOKYO CONFERENCE

By Prince I. TOKUGAWA,
President of the Japanese Red Cross.

THE Red Cross Society of Japan is looking forward with the keenest satisfaction to the privilege of acting as host to the XVth International Red Cross Conference which is to open in Tokyo on October 20th, 1934.

Our desire to see an international Red Cross Conference held in our capital dates back to the beginning of the present century; but when the proposal was first broached it was felt that the great distances involved and the difficulties of communication, entailing much loss of time for delegates attending the Conference, made it impossible to accede to our desire. Since that time, however, communications have greatly improved, and when I was privileged at the meeting of the XIVth Conference at Brussels in 1930 to propose that the next Conference should assemble in Tokyo, it was gratifying to find that our invitation was unanimously accepted.

I am sure that those Societies which have been the hosts of previous international Conferences can testify to the great stimulus which such gatherings afford to all Red Cross workers in the country which has on such occasions the opportunity of welcoming leaders of the Red Cross movement from all over the world. The Red Cross movement in Japan has made enormous strides since 1887 when the Society over which I have the honour to preside was first recognized as a member of the worldwide family of the Red Cross. It is our hope and our determination to continue this progress in the interests of our people, and the stimulus which will be given to the movement in Japan by next year's conference will be of great value in this respect.

Prince Tokugawa

Nor will this stimulus be confined to the Red Cross Society of Japan. Some of the delegates from distant countries will, I have no doubt, take the opportunity, in connexion with their journey to Japan, to visit other Red Cross organizations in the Orient, and these, too, will derive encouragement and a fresh impetus to develop their humanitarian work from contact with men and women from distant climes, who are all playing a distinguished and useful part in the work of the Red Cross.

It is fully realized, of course, that by agreeing to assemble on the shores of the Pacific next year the delegates to the Conference will be putting themselves to some inconvenience. The Red Cross Society of Japan considers it a privilege to be able to assure them that they will have neither inconvenience nor discomfort to fear during their stay on Japanese soil, and that everything possible will be done to give them some insight into the ancient civilization of a people which has cultivated and developed its national life for more than 3.000 years. It will be our special pride to show to delegates the work of restoration which has been carried out during the past ten years in the districts which were laid waste by the terrible earthquake and subsequent fire of 1923. Japan can never forget the sympathy and practical help so generously given by foreign governments, by many Red Cross Societies and by other institutions in that time of unprecedented disaster.

The Red Cross Society of Japan naturally looks back with pride to its record of wartime service during the past fifty years. But we shall be no less proud to show the delegates next year something of the operation of our peacetime programme. The Japanese Red Cross was a founder member of the League of Red Cross Societies, and I venture to believe that the work we have undertaken since 1919 with a view to the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering represents as extensive a programme of peacetime activity as can be found in any country in the world. We have, unhappily, only too often the occasion to demonstrate the capacity of the Japanese Red Cross as a disaster relief agency. In addition to this we carry on very extensive activities in the health and nursing fields, and one of the most useful developments, in Japan as elsewhere, is the Junior Red Cross, through which we aim to inculcate among boys and girls the principles and ideals of peace, service, and universal brotherhood.

These ideals surely lie at the basis of the whole Red Cross movement. There is something undeniably impressive about an international Red Cross meeting because at such meetings political, racial and religious differences are forgotten—all that makes for them is relegated to the background—and all participants are animated by a single ideal of human solidarity, by one increasing purpose: to make a happier and better world. To contribute to the realization of that purpose will be the sole thought of the Japanese Red Cross in preparing for next year's meeting in Tokyo.

XVth INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE

Draft agenda

1. Election of the President, Vice-Presidents and Secretaries. Nomination of Commissions.
2. Report of the Standing Commission.
3. General report of the International Red Cross Committee.
4. Report on the funds administered by the International Red Cross Committee:
   - *a*) Report on the use made of the income from the Empress Shôken Fund.
   - *b*) Allocation of the income from the Augusta Fund.
   - *c*) Revision of the rules governing the award of the Florence Nightingale Medal.
5. General report of the League of Red Cross Societies.
6. Summary of the general reports of national Red Cross Societies.
7. The International Relief Union: the rôle of national Societies and the international Red Cross bodies in the working of the Union.
8. Position regarding the ratification of the Geneva Convention of 1929 and the harmonizing of national legislation with the Convention.
9. Draft convention regarding the position of civilians on enemy territory or territory occupied by the enemy.
10. The application by analogy of the Geneva Convention and of the Prisoners of War Code in armed conflicts unaccompanied by declaration of war.
11. Standardization of medical stores.
12. The protection of civilian populations against air attack, and chemical, biological and incendiary warfare.
13. Extension of the Red Cross movement throughout the world :
    - *a*) Formation of new Red Cross Societies.
    - *b*) Colonial and overseas branches of national Societies.
    - *c*) National Red Cross development, propaganda and membership; methods of increasing the resources of national Societies.
    - *d*) Regional conferences.
14. The rôle of the Red Cross as a factor in improving international relationships. Report of the Commission on the Red Cross Truce.
15. Red Cross participation in welfare work and unemployment relief.
16. International secretariats of private information.
17. Red Cross work at sea.
18. The Red Cross and health work : popular health instruction—rural hygiene—the health of merchant seamen.
19. Nursing :
    - *a*) The rôle of nurses and voluntary aids in time of disaster; their training for this purpose.
    - *b*) The organization and study programmes of nursing schools.
20. Junior Red Cross:
    - *a*) Methods of Junior Red Cross propaganda for children, parents, teachers, Government authorities, the press and the general public.
    - *b*) The moral basis of the Junior Red Cross health programme.
    - *c*) The contribution of the Junior Red Cross to the improvement of international relations (resolution 25 of the XIVth International Red Cross Conference).
    - *d*) Application of the principles formulated in the XIVth circular of the International Red Cross Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies.
    - *e*) Methods for maintaining in Red Cross service boys and girls who have been Junior Red Cross members.
21. The organization of national Societies for disaster preparedness.
22. First aid on highways.
23. Air ambulances.
24. Election of members of the Standing Commission for the period 1934-1938.
25. Place and date of the XVIth International Red Cross Conference.

Agenda of the Board of Delegates

1. Election of the President.
2. Constitution of the Presidential Bureau of the Conference and nomination (subject to ratification by the Conference) of the President, Vice-Presidents and Secretaries of the Conference.
3. Agenda of the Conference. Order of business.
4. Any questions which may be referred to the Board of Delegates by the Standing Commission or by the Conference.

Agenda of the Board of Governors

1. Minutes of the previous meeting.
2. Appointment of delegates to represent the League at the XVth International Red Cross Conference.
3. General report of the Executive Committee.
4. General report of Mr. Ernest J. Swift, Secretary General.
5. Co-operation with the International Red Cross Committee: Report of Colonel Draudt, Vice-Chairman.
6. The value of regional Red Cross conferences; report of Dr. Masarykova (Czechoslovakia).
7. The development of Red Cross Organization and Activity in the Far East: report of Mr. L. de Gielgud, Under-Secretary General.
8. Financial position of the League as at August 1st 1934; budget for 1935.
   Report of the Finance Committee.
9. Nomination of three members of the Executive Committee to succeed Sir Arthur Stanley (Great Britain); Senator Ciraolo (Italy); Mr. Donker Curtius (Netherlands).
10. Resolutions of the XVth International Red Cross Conference; action to be taken by the League. Report of the Secretary General.
11. Any other questions.
12. Place and date of the next meeting of the Board.

EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMITTEES IN GERMANY

Summary of a Lecture by Dr. BERGER
Provincial Inspector of Red Cross Health Detachments in Saxony

In March 1933, the German Red Cross invited all its branches—in the provinces, districts and towns throughout the Reich— to constitute emergency relief committees on the lines of the pre-war mobilization committees, but with a greatly enlarged sphere of action to bring them into line with the increased responsibilities of the Red Cross.

These emergency relief committees will be organized in such a manner as to enable them to intervene promptly in the event of sudden disaster, such as epidemics, political disturbances, natural catastrophes, etc., and to act as auxiliaries of the army medical services.

Wherever possible, the committee will be placed under the leadership of the chairman of the local Red Cross Men's Committee, while the chairman of the Ladies' Committee will act as its vice-chairman. In this way, adequate co-operation will be ensured between the men's and women's detachments. These two organizations will also jointly provide the technical personnel for the emergency relief committees.

The activities of the committees will be divided into two categories: compulsory and optional. The nature of the first will be defined either by the German Government or by the German Red Cross, but they will consist in the main of what has been known hitherto as "official medical service", i. e. help in the event of widespread epidemics or of threatened epidemics from across the border; natural disasters (earthquakes, floods, etc.); internal disturbances or civil war (care of wounded and refugees); war.

The optional side of the programme comprises activities decided upon by the local Red Cross committees themselves. So far as this aspect of the work is concerned, they take their instructions from the provincial committee instead of from the Central Committee as in the case of the compulsory activities.

The prompt performance of these different tasks depends very largely on the organization of the men's and women's committees, and on their complete co-ordination which can only be achieved after long experience and by means of personnel trained on a standardized basis.

With a view to establishing close relations and strengthening the spirit of collaboration between men's and women's committee, it is recommended that delegates from each of these two organizations should be allowed to sit on the other's executive committee or to attend its meetings.

The first and most essential steps in the organization of an emergency relief committee are: the compilation of a list of all persons whose services are at the disposal of the committee; the training of these volunteers in accordance with their physical and professional capacities; the preparation of a plan of mobilization; the organization of courses, drill, etc., the provision of uniform, equipment and medical supplies; arrangements for the use of ambulances or other vehicles for the transportation of patients, personnel and supplies.

It lies with the women's committees to arrange for the provision and storage of beds, linen and garments for the sick, and medical supplies. The men's committees are responsible for providing additional hospital and other accommodation in case of emergency.

To this effect, they are required to inspect those premises in the region offering facilities for prompt conversion into temporary hospitals, and to keep a record of them. The emergency relief committees look to them also for providing temporary huts and shelters in case of need.

The elementary training of personnel will be entrusted to the doctors attached to the Red Cross committees. In order to gain practical experience in emergency relief and protection against poison gas, nurses and voluntary aids will be urged to attend as often as possible the regular drills of the medical detachments, as well as their life-saving and first-aid demonstrations. They will also be admitted to share the practical and theoretical instruction given in the hospitals to student nurses and will thus be prepared to take the place of trained nurses when the latter are called up for government service.

It is considered that very valuable service can be rendered by the emergency relief committees in the direction of equipping temporary hospitals to take the overflow from Red Cross hospitals in time of need, and by training suitable personnel to serve in them.

It had been hoped to get committees going all over the country by the beginning of the autumn, but thus far very few have been formed. The first in order of date was the Magdeburg Committee, founded on June 1st, 1933. The period of transition and general re-organization through which Germany is now passing probably accounts in a very great measure for the delay in carrying out the scheme. Also, in quite a number of regions, no district committee of the Red Cross has yet been established.

THE INTERNATIONAL COURSES AT BEDFORD COLLEGE

By G. JEBB (Principal) and Helena REID (Director of Social Studies),
Bedford College for Women.

MUCH interest is now being taken in the effort to provide a memorial to Florence Nightingale by establishing on a surer foundation the system of "International Courses" for nurses which has, for the past fourteen years, been financed by the League of Red Cross Societies.

The project has roused the imagination of the nursing world. If it succeeds, as succeed it must, the higher education of nurses will undoubtedly develop in many directions now unforeseen, but before new developments are contemplated it is well to take stock of the existing scheme and reach a clear understanding of its purpose and achievements.

The International Courses have been the product of a threefold co-operation. The League of Red Cross Societies has provided the funds and recruited the students. Bedford College and the College of Nursing have provided the training the students receive in London. This co-operation has been fruitful, because each of the three partners in the scheme supplies to it something which the other partners cannot offer. It follows that, in describing its work, each would select a rather different angle from which to envisage it. This article is written from the Bedford College angle. It seeks to answer the question often asked in one form or another: "What are the functions in such a scheme of a University College, the main activities of which are directed to widely different fields?" To make the point clear, it will be desirable first of all to give some account of Bedford College and its work.

Bedford College was founded in 1849 with the intention of offering to women a liberal education in the higher branches of learning. For twenty-five years the College inhabited buildings in Bedford Square, from whence its name was derived, and then, after a sojourn of some thirty years in Baker Street, came to occupy the present site in Regent's Park in 1913. The buildings erected for the College are in an ideal position, far enough from the main road to ensure quiet, with spacious and well wooded grounds: the advantages of the country are combined with that of easy accessibility from all parts of London. A definite direction to the educational work was given in 1878, when the degree examinations of the University of London were first opened to women and candidates presented by the College were successful.

From that date onwards there has been a continuous development of the teaching given to meet the various requirements of students. The College is recognised as a constituent school of the University of London in the Faculties of Arts and Science; it is recognised for Preliminary Medical studies and for Advanced Medical studies in Chemistry and Physiology; it is one of the Institutions approved by the Ministry of Health for the Training of Health Visitors. Since 1918 there has been a Department of Social Studies in which students are prepared for the degree in Sociology and for the Bedford College Socia Studies Certificate.

Nearly all the six hundred students of the College are engaged in studies entirely academic in character, though there is an exception to this in the social work done, under the supervision of outside societies and public health bodies, by students working for the Social Studies Certificate and the Health Visitor's Examination.

When in 1921 the League of Red Cross Societies asked Bedford College to arrange a course in Public Health for Nurses for international students, the Social Studies Department was enlarged to take in this new group. The curriculum utilised was based on that of the Public Health course, suitably adapted to the needs of foreign students who were going back to their own countries to work in the public health field.

In 1924 the basis of the International Course was widened to include those nurses who wished to become teachers in Schools of Nursing or to take up some administrative post within a hospital. The co-operation of the College of Nursing was sought in connection with this new development, and the responsibility for the necessary lecture courses, together with the arrangements for practical experience in hospitals, was accepted by them.

The teaching staff of Bedford College and the College of Nursing was strengthened through the generosity of the League, by the appointment of two tutors, both nurses, one herself an experienced public health worker, the other experienced in the administration of a hospital. The Course in Public Health for Nurses and the Course for Nurse Administrators have a common basis; both are controlled by an Organisation Committee with a membership consisting of representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies, the College of Nursing, the School of Hygiene and the Teachers of Bedford College responsible for the lecture courses. This Committee is responsible to the Council of Bedford College and the Principal of the College is its Chairman. It controls the admission of all students attending the courses and is responsible for the arrangements with regard both to theoretical and to practical work. The Committee receives reports on the progress of each student, and advises the League on the granting of Certificates at the end of the course.

That being the machinery, what can be said as to the value of the course to nurses and to the advancement of their education as a body? There is, to begin with, the advantage of a wider outlook derived from membership of a University College and from the contact with a number of students whose interests are mainly theoretical; on their side the degree students gain by contact with a group coming from all parts

of the world, whose interests are mainly outside the strictly defined academic course. Bedford College students have, as is usual in Universities, developed a very extensive system of educational, recreational and social activities, so that those pursuing different courses of study meet together on common ground of interest. The group with whom the nurses are most intimately connected are the Social Studies students; for both alike the interests are mainly humanitarian and practical and it is valuable for the two groups to meet and take some part of their training together.

It is interesting to note that of recent years an increasing proportion of the International students have had, in addition to the required nursing training, further experience in their own country, either in public health or in a hospital. Such students are more able to derive benefit from the International Course than those who have only just completed the minimum requirements for admission.

What is the contribution made by the course to the advancement of the education of nurses? The central aim is to create a wider outlook, not based on vague generalisations nor on an overcrowded programme, but on a careful consideration of the subject matter from various aspects. The theoretical courses are correlated one with another and also with the relevant practical experience; theory illuminates practice, and through practical experience the value of the theories is tried and tested.

Attendance at lectures forms part of a larger whole; the acquisition of a knowledge of facts is the basis, but whether or not that basis can be made into a sure foundation depends on the capacity of the student so to understand the value and the meaning of the facts that they become part of her mental life. That process of assimilation demands time, thought and reflection. It is helped greatly by discussions and by clarifying ideas through a clear exposition in writing. Such a system of education demands the active co-operation of the student with the teacher, and to many this opens out a new vision of the meaning of education. The lecturer in class guides the attention of the students to important aspects of the subject, thus preventing a waste of their time, and by arousing interest stimulates individuals to think and read for themselves. The further development of those interests and the guidance of the reading is the main concern of the small discussion group where the lecturer meets the students individually. The link between the theoretical and the practical application is the special care of the Tutor and of those supervisors actually engaged in professional work. The different background of the students demands that individual plans should be formed for practical work for each one, and the Tutor is able to make this necessary adjustment.

No description of the educative work of the scheme would be complete without a reference to "Manchester Square". In the League's hostel at No. 15, under the wise direction of its Warden, students from a dozen or more different countries share a common life and learn from one another much that neither books nor lectures could teach them.

In the end the best proof of the value of the course lies in the work which the "Old Internationals" are doing in their own countries. The reports which come to us show that they have developed powers of leadership and can so exercise responsibility as to build up their work on durable foundations.

The power to carry through undertakings of this nature rests on a wide understanding of the problems involved, on ability to work with others, and on the possession of an ideal towards which all efforts are directed. These are characteristics of the trained mind and the fact that, in whatever part of the world "Old Internationals" are to be found, their work bears the same stamp of excellence and enthusiasm, is testimony of the value of the contribution made by the International Courses in advancing the education of nurses.

THE NEED FOR RURAL HYGIENE

THE contention that life in the towns is healthier than in the country strikes one at first sight as paradoxical. Yet, when the Board of Governors of the League urged the national Red Cross Societies to concentrate more of their attention on the improvement of rural hygiene, it based its recommendation on data which proved unquestionably that the chances of attaining a ripe old age are higher in urban areas than in the villages.

One of the principal reasons for this, of course, is the lack of medical facilities and proper sanitation in rural communities. When every village has been endowed with up-to-date drainage and systems of sewerage disposal, and equipped with baby clinics and health centres, the positions will doubtless be reversed and the country will come into its own again.

The chief sufferers from this unsatisfactory situation are newly-born babes and women in childbirth, among whom the death-rate is appreciably higher in the villages than in the towns. In Germany the difference is as high as 25 per cent. On the other hand, the towns show a larger proportion of still births, although the downward tendency is more marked in the towns than in the rural areas. In France, for exemple, between 1913 and 1921, the diminution in the number of still births in urban centres attained 13.9 per thousand births, whereas the corresponding diminution in the country was only 6.9 per thousand; there has, in fact, been no decrease at all, so far as the small communities are concerned, since 1926. On the contrary, an increase has been registered in many cases, while in the towns the rate has continually fallen.

The need for maternity clinics in the villages is therefore demonstrated, and it is to be hoped that the example of the Canadian and Swedish Red Cross Societies in establishing such institutions will soon be universally followed.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Health Films in Cinema Programmes.

The following letter, written by the Medical Officer of Health of a town in Lancashire (England) to the editor of "Mother and Child", throws an interesting side-light on the reactions of the public to health propaganda when served as part of their regular entertainment:

The possibilities of the film as a means of health education and propaganda are being increasingly appreciated. Those who have been concerned in the organization of health propaganda campaigns, however, while realizing that the most extensive opportunity for propaganda through films is undoubtedly presented by the ordinary picture house, have wondered as to the possibilities of getting a health film included in the ordinary cinema programme. The cinema manager may be loth to introduce a film the story and production of which may perhaps not reach the standard of the other features, or he may wonder how his audience will view the inclusion of a health film in the programme.

We have just concluded an experiment of this nature in my own borough, where, in the public cinemas, a short health film taking from ten to fifteen minutes to show was incorporated in the ordinary programme, and was shown at each performance, and, as a result, 78,000 people have witnessed a series of health films during the last three months... The films were changed weekly and always shown between the two feature films. The latter precaution was necessary since the audience simply had to see the health films, whether they liked them or not. Psychologically, if the first feature picture was good, the audience would be entertained and consequently their minds would be in a highly receptive state. If it was not good, the health film would come as a relief when the audience was in a critical, speculative and enquiring turn of mind, and therefore likely to pay more attention to it.

Naturally, it has been very difficult to gauge the effects of the experiment, but one important point has been revealed: that is, that the general public is not averse from being shown health films incorporated with the ordinary programme at public cinemas. So far no adverse criticism has been made by the public. On the contrary, many reports have been made voicing approval of the scheme.

Nansen Office for Refugees.

The Governing Board of the Nansen International Office for Refugees held its eighth session last October under the chairmanship of Professor Georges Werner.

At this meeting, the Board had to consider how it could best give effect to the resolution of the League of Nations on the subject of refugees. The budget of the Office for 1934 was approved, and the mandate of the delegate in Turkey was extended for another year.

The terms of office of Messrs. Ciraolo and Swift as members of the Board, and Senator François and Mademoiselle Ferrière as substitute members, were renewed for a further period of three years. The appointment of M. Antoniade, Roumanian delegate to the League of Nations, as member of the Finance Commission of the Office, was confirmed.

The next meeting of the Board will be held in April 1934.

International Health Conference.

The French Society of Public Medicine and Sanitary Engineering decided this year to lend an international character to its Twentieth Annual Health Congress, which met in Paris from October 23rd to 26th last under the patronage of the President of the Republic. The inaugural session was attended by the Minister of Public Health, and twenty countries sent official delegations.

Two principal themes were chosen for discussion: *a)* official health enterprises and the economic crisis; *b)* co-ordination of efforts in the anti-tuberculosis campaign (town planning and tuberculosis).

The Italian delegate, Dr. Lutrario, described to the Congress the remarkable progress achieved in Italy in the direction of sanitation and hygiene, making special reference to the reclaiming of the Pontine Marshes which, for centuries, had been a "No Man's Land" but is today a flourishing agricultural region, dotted with farms and small towns.

Mr. Krul, of The Hague, presented a report on irrigation and drainage, while Professor Cantacuzène testified to the success of anti-tuberculosis vaccination in Roumania. Dr. Chodzko and Dr. McDougall explained how the anti-tuberculosis campaign is being conducted in Poland and Great Britain. Mr. Fuss, of the International Labour Office, emphasized the necessity of undertaking important work of public utility as a means of combating the effects of the crisis. A French architect, M. Paul Nelson, described the regional organization of hospital settlements.

The proceedings of the Congress, which will be published shortly, will contain a number of interesting suggestions, which could be turned to good account by the national Red Cross Societies in their hospital and health work.

Refugee Relief.

The Advisory Committee of Private Organizations for Refugees met at Geneva en December 13th last. This meeting was followed the next day by the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Advisory Commission on Refugee Questions at the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

The Commission took cognizance of the convention relating to the international status of refugees adopted by the Intergovernmental Conference last October, and urged the Council of the League of Nations to invite the member States to ratify that convention with the least possible delay. Earnest consideration was again given to the question of the expulsion of refugees, and the Commission insisted on the fact that no extradition should be enforced until the refugee had secured the authorization to enter another country.

Both meetings were attended by Major Petersén, director of the Relief Division of the League of Red Cross Societies.

BOOK REVIEWS

Manual de Higiene infantil y Puericultura, by Dr. Americo Mola, Montevideo. Impresora-uruguaya, 1932.

Dr. Americo Mola, professor of infant hygiene and puericulture in Uruguay—better known to the outside world as the chairman of the International Committee of Open-Air Schools—has published a book on the protection of the child from before birth to adolescence. Although the groundwork of this excellent manual consists of data collected in the author's own country, due prominence is accorded to universally-recognized principles, and its technical value is attested to by Professor Luis Morquio, the highest child welfare authority in Latin America, in a laudatory preface.

Annual Report of the Rockefeller Foundation for 1932, 49 West 49th Street, New York.

In the course of the year 1932, the Rockefeller Foundation expended no less than $13,737,000 on health projects and research work. The outstanding success of the year was the discovery of a method of vaccinating doctors, nurses, and laboratory workers against the yellow disease virus, which, in the preceding years, has attacked 33 of the Foundation's collaborators and caused the death of six. Marked advance has been made in the campaign against malaria and ankylostomiasis, and research into the causes and prevention of the common cold (which have hitherto baffled the medical world), pian, undulating fever and tuberculosis is beginning to yield important results.

In all parts of the world, the Foundation has extended aid to health services, Health Centres, and schools of nursing, and has provided scholarships. It has also made a contribution towards the budget of the League of Nations' Health Organization.

If today a health policy is becoming manifest in every country, it is due in a very great measure to the perseverence and far-sightedness of the Rockefeller Foundation.

This Panel Business, by Dr. G. I. Collier. John Bale Sons and Danielsson, Ltd., 83-91, Great Titchfield Street, London, W. 1. 1933. Price 10/6.

We have here a searching analysis, by a "panel" doctor, of the workings of the medical side of the British National Insurance Scheme in daily practice. The author fully recognizes that compulsory insurance against sickness and disablement is the greatest social achievement of modern times and that its possibilities are infinite, but deems that the scheme as at present conceived is still very far from perfect. In a spirit of constructive criticism, he suggests a number of reforms which he considers essential to the smooth administration of the medical service, in the interests alike of the patients and practitioners affected by the scheme.

Handbook of Suggestions on Health Education, published by the Board of Education, London. 1933. H. M. Stationery Office, Kingsway, London. Price 6 shillings.

The object of this manual is not so much to serve as a syllabus but as a guide to enable teachers, nurses and school doctors to interest school-children in health, teach them health rules and accustom them to practise healthy living.

The handbook is remarkably concise and complete, and no important detail or useful fact has been omitted. Every field of physical and mental hygiene is touched upon, as well as child welfare, the combating of infectious diseases, house sanitation and industrial hygiene. Of particular interest are the chapters on the progress of public health, and on health education in the school, in which eulogistic reference is made to the Junior Red Cross.

Vingt-cinq ans d'activité de l'Office International d'Hygiène Publique (Twenty-five years of activity the International Public Health Office), 195 Boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris, 1933.

The International Public Health Office owes its origin to an international convention signed in Rome on December 9th, 1907. It was not until 1909, however, that it was actually established, Fifty-one governments are today represented on its permanent committee, which meets twice yearly at the headquarters of the I. P. H. O. in Paris. The Office acts as General Advisory Council of the health organization of the League of Nations.

The International Office drafted the international health conventions of 1912 and 1926, the International Health Conven tion for Aerial Navigation (1933), the international agreement of Brussels for the care of seamen affected with venereal diseases (1924), and the 1930 convention relating to the anti-diphtheric serum. It is now preparing other international conventions. Through its monthly bulletin, it has furnished an immense amount of medical data, and has made an appreciable contribution towards the improvement of nosological statistics. Its investigations and studies cover a wide range of problems concerned with public health.

The Red Cross owes a great debt of gratitude to the first chairman of the Standing Committee of the I. P. H. O., the late Professor Rocco Santoliquido, who, as a Technical Counsellor of the League of Red Cross Societies, helped to elaborate the peace-time programme of the Red Cross.

The present chairman of the I. P. H. O. is Sir George S. Buchanan.

THE LEAGUE
OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

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(Japan Red Cross).

Secretary-General

Mr. Ernest J. SWIFT.

On the State of Public Health, Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health for the Year 1932. London, 1933. H. M. Stationery Office, Kingsway, London, W. C. 2. Price 4 shillings.

The annual reports of Sir George Newman are always looked forward to with the liveliest interest by those engaged in public health work, for they are a never-ending source of inspiration and learning.

Mortality from all causes is in constant regression in England, in spite of the widespread unemployment and economic distress which have reigned in that country for over a decade. Contrary to the observations made in other countries, the health and development of the children have remained unaffected by this situation. The reason for this is that enormous efforts have been made during the last hundred years to raise the standard of living in England, and to protect the health and welfare of the population through appropriate legislation. The health education of the public is constantly improving, and the mission of the medical profession is as much preventive as curative.

Sir George Newman has always shown himself keenly alive to the value of the contribution which voluntary bodies can make to the improvement of public health.

Le Gérant : B. de Rougé.

IMP. UNION, 13, RUE MÉCHAIN, PARIS.